

better control of their health care by allowing them to spend their healthcare dollars as they see fit.

Simply put, our plan moves us from an unsustainable path to a sustainable one.

SKINNY BUDGET

(Mr. EVANS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, this morning, President Trump has released the first budget proposal of his administration.

In reading through the budget proposal, I am reminded of what President Trump said in the summer when he was speaking to the African-American community in a rally in Philadelphia.

He said: What do you have to lose?

This is what we have to lose: eliminating the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant program, whose sole purpose is to combat poverty nationwide.

This is what we have to lose: cutting funding for Head Start and before- and after-school programs for our kids does not give them a chance to get ahead.

This is what we have to lose: stripping funding for Medicaid in your new healthcare law that provides critical services for our most vulnerable.

This is what we have to lose: all of those cuts do not give our seniors, our children, and our working families a chance to get ahead.

Our communities have too much to lose, Mr. President. Our communities need the opportunity to make crucial investments that make our neighborhoods stronger block by block.

WE MUST IMPROVE FOOD ACCESS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, a healthy diet for many Americans may have nothing to do with commitment, but, rather, accessibility.

Limited access to supermarkets and grocery stores with fresh nutritional food can be a challenge in both rural and urban communities. These are often called food deserts.

This is a particular concern for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, which intends to provide nutrition to millions of Americans.

According to the USDA, to qualify as a low-access community, at least 500 people and/or at least 33 percent of the population must reside more than 1 mile from a supermarket or large grocery store. For rural areas, the distance is more than 10 miles.

It is difficult to eat healthy when the easiest store to get to primarily provides packaged and processed food. SNAP recipients may find a local mar-

ket convenient, but it often offers high-calorie foods with minimal nutritional value. These foods can often be a staple for families with limited resources.

It is my hope that we can increase access to fresh food for communities throughout the country. Our families deserve no less.

I look forward to working with the Agriculture Nutrition Subcommittee to continue to look at the SNAP program so that it serves those it is intended to serve.

JANUARY TRADE DEFICIT

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the Commerce Department just announced that America's trade deficit for January 2017 was \$48.5 billion, the largest monthly deficit since March 2012. That translates into more lost jobs in our country.

In the campaign, President Trump criticized our trade deals. He promised to do better for American workers. And now, nearly 2 months into his Presidency, what action has he taken to stop the erosion of this deficit and the jobs that go with them?

It continues to get worse.

What hope can he give to the hundreds and hundreds more steelworkers in Lorain, Ohio, who just received pink slips over the weekend due to the permanent closure of another steel line, due to Chinese imports and predatory trade practice?

It is going to put a lot of steelworkers back to work, President Trump said during the campaign and after as he revived the Keystone and Dakota Access pipelines. But his talk turned out to be empty and a pipe dream because the pipes have already been purchased from foreign sources.

Next month, China's President, Xi Jinping, will visit President Trump at Mar-a-Lago in Florida. President Trump talked tough on China throughout the campaign, but what will he do to reform Chinese trade practices that are resulting in these increasing trade deficits?

Mr. Speaker, I hope our President begins to keep the long list of campaign promises that he made to working people across this country, reverses these deficits, and starts increasing good jobs again.

LET'S FIX AMERICA'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

(Mr. LOUDERMILK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, whatever possessed someone to think that a faceless, nameless bureaucrat in an ivory tower in Washington, D.C., who has never been to my district, who has never met with the people, think

they know more about what is good for the family and the children of my people than they do?

That was a question that was asked of me by a constituent this weekend.

What makes you think you know better what is best for my family and my children than I do?

He was referring to the Affordable Care Act.

He went on to tell me that he used to have an insurance policy that cost \$300 a month that he could use. Today, he is paying \$1,600 a month for something he cannot use and he doesn't want, but by the force of law, he is forced to have.

He went on to say: Will you please, please do something now to fix this problem?

Another person said: Are you going to be able to get to a reform to fix America's health care that you like?

My answer was no.

We are not going to get to something I like, but that is not the issue here. Why? Because America is not ready for what I want. That is true Federalism, that this place has nothing to do with health care.

We can't get there right now because we don't have the votes, but we can get to something we need. I call upon my brothers and sisters in the House: Let's fix America's healthcare system. We have the opportunity to do it now.

□ 1230

COMMEMORATING THE TRANSFER OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS FROM DENMARK TO THE UNITED STATES

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, later today, I intend to reintroduce a resolution commemorating the transfer of the U.S. Virgin Islands from Denmark to the United States. In that resolution, it discusses the 1733 slave revolt, the first slave revolt in the Western Hemisphere; the 1848 slave rebellion and emancipation, 17 years before the United States; and, of course, the 1917 transfer of ownership of the Virgin Islands from Denmark to the U.S.

We also discussed great Virgin Islanders, such as Alton Adams, Edward Blyden, Camille Pissarro, Judah Benjamin, and Roy Innis.

What does the transfer mean, and what have been the gains and benefits to the people of the Virgin Islands because of the purchase by the United States? The Americans were able to receive a pristine, geopolitically strategic location in the Caribbean with a people who are loyal to and proud of this country.

What has been given to the Virgin Islanders, a people willing and eager to take on the responsibilities of that citizenship but who, in fact, have moved from a system of serfdom, under Danish rule, to second-class, limited